

CHAPTER

IX. 1807.

Abuso of military power — Defence of diplomatic rights — Marshal Brune — Army supplies— English cloth and leather— Arrest on a charge of libel — Despatch from M. de Talleyrand— A page of Napoleon's glory —In-terview between the two Emperors at Tilsit — Silesia restored to the Queen of Prussia — Unfortunate situation of Prussia — Impossibility of re-establishing Poland in 1807 — Foundation of the Kingdom of Westphalia—The Duchy of Warsaw and the King of Saxony.

M. KAN WHILE the internal affairs of the towns over which my diplomatic jurisdiction extended soon gave me more employment than ever. The greatest misfortune of the Empire was, perhaps, the abuse of the right arrogated "by the wearers of epaulets. My situation gave me an opportunity of observing all the odious character of a military government. Another in my place could not have done all that I did. I was this confidently, for my situation was a distinct and independent one, as Bonaparte had told me. Being authorized to correspond directly with the Emperor, the military chiefs feared, if they did not yield to my just representations, that I would make private reports; this apprehension was wonderfully useful in enabling me to maintain the rights of the towns, which, had adopted me as their first citizen.

A circumstance occurred in which I had to defend the rights of the diplomatic and commercial agents against the pretensions of military power. Marshal Brune during his government at Hamburg, went to Bremen to watch the strict execution of the illusive blockade against England. The Marshal, acting, no doubt, in conformity with the instructions of Clarke, then Minister of War and Governor of Berlin, wished to arrogate the right of deciding on the captures made by our cruisers.

He attempted to prevent the Consul Lagau from selling